
FINDING AND RECOMMENDATION(S)

Submitted by: California Forestry Association

Finding: Open burning produces about 87 lbs. of emissions per ton of wood material burned. Controlled combustion (biomass powerplants) produces about 1.4 lbs. of emissions per ton of wood material burned. Except on rare occasions, all open burning in the Tahoe Basin should be banned.

Background and Supporting Evidence: Emissions from open burning (prescribed fire and burning wood material in piles) have been measured and show high levels of emissions. Controlled combustion of wood can essentially eliminate emissions.

Recommendation(s)

Consider banning most open burning in the Basin. Require wood material be chipped and removed rather than open burned unless an emissions analysis demonstrates that the environmental cost outweighs chip and remove.

Impacts of Implementation: *(The implementation of any Recommendation is likely to have specific impacts. Consider potential consequences related to each of the following areas):*

Analysis of impacts on the following factors is REQUIRED (Best Estimate):

- ☐ Cost
- ☐ Funding source
- ☐ Staffing
- ☐ Existing regulations and/or laws

Open burning generates 87 lbs. of emissions and pollutants per ton of wood material burned. Controlled combustion in a boiler, such as at a biomass powerplant, produces about 1.4 lbs. of emissions per ton of wood material burned.

Thinning, ladder fuel removal and brush removal generally generates about 13 bone dry tons of wood waste per acre of fuels reduction.

Cut, skid, chip, load and haul would use about 5 gallons of diesel per bone dry ton of wood waste. The emissions from 5 gallons of diesel/ bone dry ton of wood waste is about 1/10 the emissions of open burning an equivalent amount of wood.

Analysis of impacts on the following factors is OPTIONAL:

- ☐ Operational
- ☐ Social
- ☐ Political
- ☐ Policy
- ☐ Health and Safety
- ☐ Environmental
- ☐ Interagency

Creating a biomass removal policy would potentially support the 3 megawatt biomass facility in Carson City, provide needed feedstock for the existing Loyaltan biomass powerplant, and/or provide sufficient feedstock to support a new small biomass facility.